



OREGON
Unitarian Universalist
VOICES
for **JUSTICE**



Congregations doing justice together

Newsletter – January 19, 2024

Liaisons

Communication

Justice

Joining Forces

We are hoping to involve all our Oregon UU congregations in the hard work of environmental and social justice. Working together will truly help our world, as you have all learned. Toward that end, we are enlisting the help of a liaison from each of our congregations. If your congregation is not involved yet, please do join in this effort.

So far, 8 of our 21 congregations/fellowships are starting to work together. Let's go for all 21 Oregon UU churches helping each other and finding great ways to chip away at all the problems. Plus, maybe we can find fun ways to achieve these goals.

If you are willing to serve as a liaison from your congregation, let your minister or board chair know, and please contact board member Jean Pierce at Oregonuuvoces@yahoo.com.

Overview of Oregon Legislative Information Services (OLIS)

<https://youtu.be/vNstQjP9U-I>

This video about how to use OLIS was prepared for us by Jean Pierce, member of the ORUUVfj board and of First Unitarian Church, Portland. We hope you will take time to view it. It is especially important right now as the 2024 legislative season approaches.

Mission

Oregon UU Voices for Justice is a statewide liberal religious advocacy network that seeks to educate, organize, and mobilize UUs and their congregations to advocate for policies designed to build an Oregon that:

- Affirms the worth and dignity of every person.
- Promotes justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- Supports religious freedom.
- Upholds the right of conscience and the democratic process.
- Recognizes and respects the interdependent web of all existence.

Highlighting Our Congregations' Work

Voting Rights Project: UU Community Church of Washington County

UUCCWC members, friends, neighbors, and collaborating organizations work together to write by hand and mail, at the designated optimal times, postcards and letters that encourage people to vote.

When representing our church, we work only with not-for-profit, non-partisan groups who select populations that are most likely to be experiencing voter suppression. We never tell people for whom to vote, but we encourage them to vote their conscience on issues that matter to them and to vote for candidates who support their issues. For more details, see [Voting Rights Project](#)

Donation Certificates as Gifts: UU Church in Eugene

Our Earth Action Group and our Indigenous Connection Circle had a table at our Holiday Bazaar. Instead of giving

Members of the Board

Sue Craig, UU Church in Eugene (chair)

Barbara Dow, Rogue Valley UU Fellowship, Portland (co-chair)

David Delk, First Unitarian Church, Portland and Wy'East UU Fellowship, Portland (treasurer)

Kathleen McKinney, UU Fellowship of McMinnville (secretary)

Kevin Fairham-Wheeler, First Unitarian Church, Portland

Max Merrill, UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend

Jean Pierce, First U Church, Portland

John Raymonda, Florence UU Fellowship

Current Board Activities

Rebuilding personal congregational relationships, post-pandemic

Endorsing a proposal for an Oregon public bank

2024 Oregon Legislative Information

Check out this page for information on the 2024 Oregon legislative session and committees:

<https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org/2024-legislative-info.html>

ORUUVfJ is Co-sponsoring the Ecumenical Ministries 2024 Interfaith Legislative Forum

At this free virtual event, we will hear from Oregon's senators and representatives about the short session's priorities.

When: Sunday, January 28, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, via Zoom. All the details are available [here](#).

"stuff" to family members, we encouraged folks to take our envelopes, which contained donation certificates and information about where to send the donations.

We had certificates for our Faith Fund for the McKenzie River Trust/Long Tom Watershed and also for the Water fund for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. People were so pleased to use these. It was a fun and easy way to reach out for Justice issues.

Drag Queen Story Hour with Kisses: Wy'east UU Congregation, Portland



The Wy'east UU congregation is thrilled to host our first ever Drag Queen Story Hour Event on Sunday, January 21, from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. We invite all young people, in age or heart, to join us for this delightful, fun, and love-centered story hour. We will have light refreshments and supplies available for you to make your own crown.

Kisses Major Ash is a radiant drag queen full of dynamic dance moves, emotional range, and costume changes—a seasoned performer described as “an actress, dancer, circus artist, and my fun aunt’s favorite drag queen.” We hope you’re ready to experience the one and only Kisses Major Ash. Kisses will read some favorite stories about love and inclusion.

Wy'east is focusing on building our community presence and especially bringing families to our congregation. Drag Queen story times tick many boxes on UU values, including LGBTQIA+ issues, reading and education, valuing every person, self expression, and so much more!

Nut Butter Collection: First Unitarian, Portland

For the past several weeks, First Unitarians have been collecting jars of nut butter. Did you know that a jar of nut butter is a powerhouse of nutrition? Not only is it delicious, but it also has a long shelf life and is easy to consume. If you're in the Portland area, join us in collecting jars of nut butter for [Lift UP's food drive](#) and help us spread love and nourishment in our community. So far, we have collected more than 47 pounds of various kinds of nut butter (peanut, almond, cashew).

To Get Newsletters and Action Updates

Sign up for our “Action of the Week” at uuvoicesoregon.org

Click on the “Participate” tab in the menu at the top.

To Donate

<https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org/donate.html>

Click on the “Donate” button.

Rahab’s Sisters: Wy’east UU Congregation, Portland

Wy’East UU Congregation supports a number of organizations that do good work in the community. One of them is Rahab’s Sisters, which offers hospitality and support to women, trans, and nonbinary individuals experiencing houselessness, poverty, and isolation in SE Portland.

For 20 years, they have been creating a safe, accepting environment through community gatherings and outreach. They serve delicious homemade meals and offer mental and physical health support. Activities include yoga, art projects, and more. Rahab’s mission focuses on building a resilient community in which every individual feels valued, nourished, and empowered to thrive, free from the impacts of gender-based marginalization.

Wy’east is proud to support this important organization. You can find them in the Give!Guide, giveguide.org or connect online at [Rahab's Sisters \(rahabs-sisters.org\)](http://Rahab's Sisters (rahabs-sisters.org))